



## COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES

900 EAST MAIN STREET  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219

*Donald B. Kaiserman,  
Chairman*

*Johnny G. Johnson,  
Vice Chairman*

*Delegate Richard L.  
Anderson*

*Delegate Mamye E.  
BaCote*

*L. Max Beyer*

*William G. Haneke*

*Susan B. Hippen*

*James O. Icenhour, Jr.*

*Thad A. Jones*

*Don Lecky*

*Sandra D. Love*

*William Nicholas*

*Belinda Pinckney*

*Senator Toddy Puller*

*Delegate Christopher P.  
Stolle*

*Senator Bryce Reeves*

*Chip Moran,  
Chairman, Joint  
Leadership Council of  
Veterans Service  
Organizations*

*Richard A. Schollmann,  
Chairman, Veterans  
Services Foundation*

*Paul E. Galanti,  
Commissioner of  
Veterans Services*

Adopted July 22, 2014

BVS Contact  
Thad Jones  
804-329-4999  
thad.a.jones@comcast.net

### **Position Paper 2015-02 Centenarian Veterans**

1. **Objective:** Identify and recognize Virginia's Centenarian Veterans and the centenarian spouses of such veterans.
2. **Background:**
  - a. A Centenarian is a person who is 100 years old or older.
  - b. It is likely that there are Centenarian Veterans in Virginia.
  - c. While there is no exact number of Centenarians Veterans in Virginia, a Census Bureau report put the number of centenarians living in Virginia in 2010 at 1,190 (53,364 centenarians in the United States).
3. **Discussion:**
  - a. A centenarian is rare and distinct from the rest of the older population and is deserving of special recognition from the Commonwealth.
  - b. If Virginia's Centenarian Veterans could be identified, they could be appropriately recognized for achieving this distinction and for their service to the Nation and the Commonwealth.
  - c. A mechanism could be established for Centenarian Veterans to self-identify themselves to state government, or for family members or friends to identify them, in order that they may be recognized.
  - d. A state workgroup could also assist in identifying Centenarian Veterans in our state veterans care centers, at federal medical care facilities for veterans, in partnership with our cities and towns, and through information from the National Centenarian Awareness Project.
4. **Recommendations:**
  - a. That the Governor create a working group, led by Office of the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, to facilitate the identification and recognition of Virginia's Centenarian Veterans and the centenarian spouses of such veterans.
  - b. That special certificates of recognition be created to recognize Centenarian Veterans and their centenarian spouses.
  - c. That certificates be presented to the veterans and spouses upon the request of the veteran or spouse, or of a family member or friend.
  - d. That a Virginia State Flag that has flown over the State Capitol also be presented.
  - e. That the Governor present the first certificate and flag at a special ceremony, and that a press release and photos of the ceremony be released in order to promote the new program.